

Nation's armed forces, whether at war or at peace. In the Third District of North Carolina, which I am proud to represent, we are fortunate enough to have four military bases.

I have had the opportunity to spend many hours meeting privately, off base, with dozens of military pilots, commanders, and enlisted personnel. These men and women will tell us what many of my colleagues will, our military's quality of life is far below what it should be. In fact, low pay levels have forced almost 12,000 of our enlisted military families to accept food stamps to survive.

Mr. Speaker, this is unacceptable. A junior enlisted soldier at an E1 rank receives approximately \$11,500 in basic pay for his service in addition to a housing allowance. But, Mr. Speaker, this same soldier also pays over \$3,000 in taxes on that salary.

These are the men and women called upon to defend this Nation. They are placed in harm's way to protect the freedoms my colleagues and I enjoy every day. How can we expect our troops to focus on, or successfully complete, their missions if they are worried about their husbands, wives, and children back home that are struggling to put food on the table?

Our troops accept the ultimate responsibility. They sacrifice their lives for this country, and they accept it voluntarily. Yet, despite the critical job they undertake, many are paid so little they are forced to take on second jobs. Many others are left to rely on government assistance to feed their families.

Last month, I introduced a bill to provide our enlisted military families who are eligible for food stamps with a \$500 tax credit. It should not take a conflict like that in Kosovo to remind us of the important part our armed services play in protecting the freedoms of this Nation, but it often does.

Now, as we turn on the evening news and can see our military in action, Congress has an excellent opportunity to show its support for our Nation's troops and work to address the needs of our military. While this \$500 tax credit cannot alone guarantee military families will not have to receive food stamps, it can, together with the anticipated increase in basic pay, help show our support and appreciation for our men and women in uniform.

Mr. Speaker, I am thankful for the amount of encouragement we have already received in the House for this bill. But I will be asking each and every one of my colleagues from both parties to join me in support of this effort. Now is the best time to show our military that we value their job and their sacrifice.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting our military families and join me in supporting H.R. 1055.

God bless our troops, Mr. Speaker, and God bless America.

#### CHINESE ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the House's attention again a continuing problem with Chinese illegal immigration in Guam.

This past Tuesday, on April 6, 82 were apprehended while preparing to come on shore. On Wednesday, April 7, nine more Chinese illegal immigrants were discovered by a U.S. naval vessel whose permits to work on Saipan in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, had expired, and they had decided to try their luck on Guam and boarded a small 18-foot boat bound for Guam.

On Friday, April 9, 93 illegal immigrants were apprehended as their boat ran aground on a reef off of Ritidian Point.

On Sunday, April 11, 38 suspected illegal immigrants, including two women, were caught off of Agat where they arrived on the dilapidated wooden boat.

The number of apprehended Chinese illegal immigrants in Guam caught since January of this year is now up to 473. On a per capita basis, this would be like 5,000 illegal immigrants washing up on the shores of Florida.

A couple of weeks ago, I informed this body about the criminal and inhumane ramifications of this wave of illegal immigrants into Guam. The Chinese are smuggled by crime syndicates which charge them anywhere from \$10,000 to \$30,000 each. They set sail in squalid quarters and are sometimes abused by their smugglers. They travel over the open seas for over 20 days.

Upon successfully completing the trip, they are made indentured servants and have to pay off their debt to the smugglers who brought them to the U.S.

With the arrival this week of almost 200 illegal immigrants, we see the rise of other factors in Guam. Guam is undergoing current economic crisis caused by the Asian downturn, and we have no basis upon which to deal with them. Yet the INS has gone bankrupt and refuses to house these illegal immigrants and refuses to process them into the United States mainland because they have no funds.

So the Government of Guam has taken on the responsibility to house these illegal immigrants at a cost of \$97 a day in facilities now holding over 400 occupants when they were designed to hold only about 150.

Unlike other areas inside the U.S. mainland, Guam does not have large charitable organizations capable of handling these people. Another factor has been the environmental cost of the waves of illegal immigrants. The ship which ran into the reef on Friday has leaked fuel into Guam's waters, dam-

aging the reef and killing other marine life.

According to the INS officer in charge on Guam, Mr. David Johnston, the waves of illegal immigrants will not stop unless some action is taken immediately. What I have suggested through H.R. 945 is to change the INA in order not to allow or narrow the gap for claiming political asylum in Guam.

What these Chinese syndicates do is use the political asylum claim on Guam in order to further their efforts and to profit from human misery and then bring them into the U.S.

Another thing that we must do is that there is currently a proposal in the White House which has not seen complete fruition, and that is to form an interagency task force to deal with issues of insular areas. This is a critical need. It is important that the White House immediately, sometime this week, convene an interagency task force meeting involving the Department of Justice, the Department of Transportation with the Coast Guard, the Department of Defense and the Department of State in order to address this crisis in Guam.

#### U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN KOSOVO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, last evening I indicated that I would be back to finish today what I started yesterday as to why I introduced legislation that calls on the Congress to be full partners when we determine which civil war we will enter or which we will not. That certainly is the responsibility of the Congress.

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My legislation basically says that no DOD money can be used to send ground troops into Kosovo unless approved by the Congress of the United States.

Now, it is right to condemn Milosevic for driving ethnic Albanians out of Kosovo, particularly after the bombing began. And, of course, unfortunately, at the same time, as I mentioned yesterday, we play up to China.

Now, Yugoslavia has 114,000 military and they are the size of Kentucky. China is the size of the United States and they have 2.8 million military. They have another reserve of 1.2 million. They are the worst human rights violators in the world. Their own statistics indicate that they execute more in 1 year than all of the rest of the countries in the world, and yet we play up to them. We know that they send nuclear and chemical arms to rogue nations that we have to deal with.

Again, I hear a lot of people in the well now supporting this issue who were not here when 1.8 million Sudanese found death through either starvation or because of execution. What